

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

AID-05 /069 W

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R 171645Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4823

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJECT: CHURCH POLICY DOCUMENT ON "PEACE"

REF: FIMBRES (ARA/BC) TELECON SEPTEMBER 11

1. SUMMARY: PERMANENT EPISCOPAL COMMITTEE HAS PRODUCED 33 PAGE WORK ENTITLED "GOSPEL AND PEACE." SEGMENTS OF DOCUMENT ARE NOW APPEARING IN MEDIA. EMBASSY WILL OBTAIN COMPLETE DOCUMENT SHORTLY. FROM INITIAL ANALYSIS OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION, IT IS APPARENT THAT THIS IS A MAJOR POLICY DOCUMENT BASICALLY CRITICAL OF MANY GOC CURRENT POLICIES.

2. MAIN EMPHASIS OF DOCUMENT IS PASTORAL, BUT CHURCH STAND ON ISSUES OF PRIMARY CONCERN IN CHILE COMES THROUGH CLEARLY AS BISHOPS ANALYZE CONDITIONS FOR "PEACE" IN BROAD SENSE. MAJOR OBSTACLES TO PEACE ARE SEEN TO BE MARXISM, CAPITALISM AND "MISGUIDED NATIONALISM," ALTHOUGH PEOPLE MUST ALSO HAVE BASIC RIGHTS FOR THERE TO BE LASTING PEACE. DOCUMENT RECOGNIZES DEBT COUNTRY OWES TO THE MILITARY FOR SAVING IT FROM A MARXIST DICTATORSHIP, AND WARNS THAT DANGER STILL EXISTS. CHURCH LEAVES NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS VERY DISSATISFIED WITH CURRENT GOC ECONOMIC POLICIES AND

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LACK OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

3. THE PERMANENT EPISCOPAL COMMITTEE OF BISHOPS HAS COMPLETED A "WORKING DOCUMENT" ENTITLED "GOSPEL AND PEACE." ACCORDING TO CHURCH EPISCOPAL SECRETARY BISHOP CAMUS, RAUL CARDINAL SILVA AND FOUR BISHOPS HAVE WORKED ON 33 PAGE DOCUMENT SINCE APRIL CHURCH CONFERENCE, WHERE DECISION WAS MADE TO PRODUCE A COMPLEMENTARY STUDY TO 1971 CHURCH DOCUMENT ON "GOSPEL, POLICY AND SOCIALISMS."

4. MAIN THEME OF NEW DOCUMENT IS HOW EACH INDIVIDUAL AND THE WORLD CAN OBTAIN "PEACE" (IMPLICIT IS CHURCH ADVICE TO GOC ON HOW TO OBTAIN TRUE PEACE IN CHILE). MAJOR OBSTACLES ARE MARXISM, CAPITALISM AND "MISGUIDED NATIONALISM." ALTHOUGH MARXISM IS NO LONGER MONOLITHIC, CONCEPT IS FUNDAMENTALLY AGAINST WHAT CHURCH STANDS FOR, AND CHURCH REMAINS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO MARXISM. HISTORY AT SAME TIME TEACHES THAT CAPITALISM LEADS TO WORSHIP OF MONEY, WHICH IN TURN LEADS TO LOSS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND INEQUITIES WITHIN A SOCIETY. DOCUMENT REJECTS "LIEBERALISM" AS THE CREATOR OF ILL-FATED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS IN CAPITALIST ECONOMY, WITH IMPLICIT REFERENCE TO CHILE.

5. THIRD OBSTACLE TO PEACE IS "MISGUIDED NATIONALISM," WHICH TURNS A COUNTRY INTO AN IDOL. CHURCH MAINTAINS THAT PATRIOTISM MUST ENSURE THAT NO ONE IS DENIED RIGHT TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY, DESPITE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION, AND THAT ALL ARE EQUAL UNDER THE LAW.

6. DOCUMENT ALSO LISTS BASIC RIGHTS WHICH MUST BE RESPECTED FOR PEACE TO EXIST. ALTHOUGH IMBEDDED IN LANGUAGE RELATING TO PASTORAL CONCERNS OF CHURCH, MESSAGE SHOULD BE CLEAR TO GOC THAT CHURCH BELIEVES CHILE WILL NOT HAVE NATIONAL CONSENSUS UNTIL BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED.

7. CHURCH GIVES THE MILITARY FULL CREDIT FOR SAVING THE COUNTRY FROM A MARXIST DICTATORSHIP IN 1973 AND WARNS MILITARY LEADERS TO MAINTAIN VIGILANCE, SINCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CURRENT WORLD EVENTS DEMONSTRATE THAT THREAT OF MARXISM STILL EXISTS. ON OTHER HAND, DOCUMENT CAUTIONS AGAINST LUMPING INTO PRO-MARXIST CAMP ALL CRITICS WHO CALL FOR JUSTICE, AND AGAINST MAKING POLICY DECISIONS WHICH MAY IRREPARABLY DAMAGE LONG RANGE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE.

8. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MAIN EMPHASIS OF THE DOCUMENT

IS PASTORAL, AND EVEN THOUGH IT FULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE MILITARY'S SAVING ROLE IN 1973, IT APPEARS TO BE THE SHARPEST PUBLIC CRITICISM OF CURRENT GOC POLICIES YET PUBLISHED IN CHILE. THERE HAS BEEN NO MEDIA COMMENTARY ON DOCUMENT, AND WE ASSUME GOC PREFERS TO DUCK THE ISSUE, ESPECIALLY DURING THIS PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER 11 AND 18 CELEBRATIONS. ONCE DOCUMENT IS FULLY DISTRIBUTED, FOREIGN PRESS WILL PRESUMABLY PUBLICIZE IT EXTENSIVELY.

9. BISHOP CAMUS HAS PROMISED COPIES OF DOCUMENT WHEN AVAILABLE AND EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER AS APPROPRIATE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, POLICIES, PEACE, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANTIA06316
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750322-1047
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750943/aaaabmby.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHURCH POLICY DOCUMENT ON "PEACE"
TAGS: PINT, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006